



Division of
Underground
Storage Tanks



Tennessee Tank Talk

Welcome!

What is the purpose of petroleum underground storage tank (UST) facility operator retraining? By being on our mailing list, you may own or operate a facility already which means you either are very knowledgeable or contract with a knowledgeable service provider on the day-to-day operations of a UST facility.

The regulatory answer is that Tennessee's UST Rules (Rule 0400-18-01-.16(4)) require operator retraining. The Division's Rules are our authority to enforce any requirement. But, where did the operator retraining rule come from and why does it exist as a requirement?

The intent of the rule goes back to why the Division exists in the first place, one part of our two-part mission, release prevention. The second part of our mission is to cleanup petroleum releases to the environment when they occur. The purpose of the rule goes back to the 2005 Energy Policy Act and the requirements by the USEPA of state programs. "The UST provisions of the Energy Policy Act focus on preventing releases and direct EPA to help states comply with new UST requirements. Section 1524 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 states that EPA, in coordination with states, must develop training guidelines for three distinct classes of operators who operate and maintain federally regulated underground storage tank systems." The State of Tennessee's operator retraining requirements became effective August 8, 2012.

You can read more about the purpose, background, and rule requirements from the federal requirement [here](#). The Division also has a [webpage](#) on the subject that includes additional resources. The basics of the requirements are also outline below. Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with these requirements and of course if you have any questions, be sure to contact our [regional environmental field office](#) UST staff. They will be more than glad to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew A. Bond".

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Stanley R. Boyd



Operator Retraining

Significant violations found during an inspection require operator retraining in accordance with Rule 0400-18-01-.16(4). On July 1, 2022, the Division revised the operator retraining process. Operator retraining is typically required based on routine operational compliance inspection results. For more information regarding our enforcement policy and which violations may result in operator retraining, [click here](#). Please see Exhibit A on page 22.

There are two ways to complete operator retraining:

1. Complete the online Tennessee Tank Helper training anytime before the Division-established deadline using this link: <https://tdec.tn.gov/tankhelper>. You must complete all relevant training specific to your site.
2. Complete the virtual Tennessee Tank School by registering for an upcoming class using this link: <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/ust-underground-storage-tanks/operator-training/tank-school.html>. Tank school classes are held on the second Wednesday of each month. You must register at least 1 week prior to the class to attend. A post-class test score of 70 or above is required.

Owners and/or operators completing retraining must also be designated as operators to the appropriate facility in Tennessee Tank Helper. The [Tank Operator Reference Guide](#) has detailed instructions on how to set up and access your Tennessee Tank Helper account.

Your Tank Helper or Tank School certificate of completion is proof of your successful operator retraining. Please provide a copy of your certificate to the Division staff who initially notified you of the retraining requirement. This person is most commonly the operational compliance inspector.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, contact your [regional field office](#).

Field Office Spotlight

Memphis



Counties Served: Fayette, Shelby, Tipton

Field Office Manager: [Roshanda Forsythe](#) 901-232-5968

Field Office Inspectors: Matthew Bargery, Kevin Bruce, David Groce, Casey Norris

Remediation: David Schmidt

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New Rules Resources

[Division Updates and Outreach](#)

[Current Tennessee UST Rules](#)

[2018 Federal Rule Change Quick Reference Guide](#)

Additional Resources

[Standardized Inspection Manual \(SIM\)](#)

[UST Contact Information](#)

[Contact Your Local Field Office](#)

[UST Forms and Guidance](#)

[EPA -Must For USTs](#)

[TDEC Underground Storage Tanks Home Page](#)

[EPA- Underground Storage Tanks Home Page](#)



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